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Title: Issue regarding reservation of Scheduled Castes and Scheuled Tribes in promotion of employees.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Hon. Chairperson, I would like to draw the attention of this House on the issue of reservation of SC, ST employees in promotion. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill for ensuring the reservation of SC, ST in promotion has been passed by the Rajya Sabha and yet to be passed by Lok Sabha. Though Government has an in-built system to ensure the promotion of SC, ST in Group B, C and D categories, there is no guaranteed promotion in Group A, other than the entry cadre.

Consequent of the hon. Supreme Court Judgment towards the issue of reservation for promotion for SC, ST in the matter of National Federal of SBI & Others Vs. Union of India (1995 AIR 1457) and other judgments, about 165 SC/ST MPs of both Houses of Parliament, cutting across political party lines, met the then Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singhji and UPA Chairperson Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. They apprised them of the alarming situation arising out of the hon. Supreme Court Judgment and the vulnerable situation in which the SC/ST officers landed.

The SC/ST Parliamentarians Forum and a number of *dalit* organizations in the country and several political parties, Sir, including your party, raised the issues at various forums and forced the then UPA Government to bring the Bill in Parliament.

As a result of tremendous pressure from all quarters, the Constitution (Amendment) Bill for ensuring reservation in the promotion of SC/ST was presented in the Rajya Sabha by the former Government and after a detailed discussion it was passed in the Rajya Sabha unanimously. Later, this Bill was presented in the Lok Sabha but due to opposition by certain political parties the same could not be passed here.

Now, the hon. Supreme Court, in its landmark judgment, has permitted reservation of SC/ST in promotions and reinstated the 10 per cent grace mark in the departmental examination for SC/ST. It is a very welcome move. It may please be noted that the position of reservation of SC/ST in promotion depends on the verdicts of court time and again due to lack of a clear-cut Act of Parliament. This problem can be solved only if the Constitution (Amendment) Bill passed by the Rajya Sabha is passed by the Lok Sabha also.

In order to overcome the situation, a Constitutional amendment is the only option. Hence, I would like to submit to the Government that the Constitution (Amendment) Bill for the SC/ST reservation in promotion may be taken up for consideration and passing in the current Session of the Lok Sabha itself.

HON. CHAIRPERSON : Actually, the list of Members who have given their notice for raising their matter in 'Zero Hour' is over. Once again, I am getting a long list of Members, who want to raise their issue in 'Zero Hour' now. It cannot be entertained like this. We are having a ballot system. If you are all giving your names just now and I go on permitting, then there is no point of having the ballot system.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DHARAM VIRA GANDHI (PATIALA): Sir, please allow us to speak for a minute. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, please allow me to raise my matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please take your seats. I cannot entertain here afterwards. I am telling this today. Please do not insist me afterwards.

If the Members just take one minute, then I can allow them today. Please conclude within a minute.

Now, Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury. Please be brief, speak for a minute, and show the way to others.